



NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Blumenthal Mills Site
722 West Liberty St. (SC Highway 76) Marion, South Carolina

DHEC (the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) is accepting public comments on a proposed Voluntary Cleanup Contract through March 1, 2013.

The Voluntary Cleanup Contract, 13-6156-NRP, will affect approximately 47.6 acres identified by Tax Map Serial Number 521-03-01-000 and TMS 521-02-02-000. A company known as Essex Holdings South Carolina, Inc. (Essex SC) wants to acquire the Property. This Voluntary Cleanup Contract will be between DHEC and Essex SC.

The Property was developed in 1968 as a mill for wool manufacturing operated by WJ Dickey & Sons. Calina Mills operated the facility from the early 1970s to 1974. Blumenthal Mills began operations in 1975 as a jacquard damask weaving facility. Operations at the facility included the use of various chemicals, dyes, and petroleum products. The facility was closed in November 2009. The Property is within the municipal limits of the City of Marion in a mixed use rural area including residential. The Property is bounded by West Baptist, Gasque, West Liberty, and Canal Streets.

Essex SC intends to initially manufacture diapers and in the future to package food products for distribution to domestic and international customers. Essex anticipates the creation of up to 215 jobs with an investment of \$50 Million. If this Voluntary Cleanup Contract is implemented, DHEC will allow Essex SC to acquire the Property as a "Brownfields Site" because of the potential for environmental pollution. Essex SC did not create the pollution, but will take steps to control it to keep the Property safe for re-use.

DHEC will not hold Essex SC responsible for the pre-existing pollution in exchange for doing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Contract. Under State law, Essex SC will not be responsible if anyone is affected by the contamination. Entering into this contract does not reduce the responsibility of any former owners or operators of the site.

Under the proposed contract, Essex SC will remove potential sources of hazardous substances and test soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment from the Property. If significant contamination is found, Essex SC will be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment.

DHEC uses Voluntary Cleanup Contracts to keep Brownfield sites in productive reuse. The proposed contract is available at <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/publicnotice.htm>. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

The public may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the proposed contract through March 1, 2013. Questions or comments may be directed to Jo Cherie Overcash, Project Manager, email OvercaJC@dhec.sc.gov, telephone (803) 896-4019, or Alex Fulmer, email FulmerWA@dhec.sc.gov or TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Written comments should be directed to either individual at SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.